

REMARKS

Claims 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,636,288 to Kim et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,930,744 to Ukita. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. Specifically, neither the Kim et al. reference nor the Ukita et al. reference disclose or suggest a liquid crystal display apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, “a test pad that is formed on a portion of the input signal wire between the input and output terminals of the input signal wire,” as defined in amended independent Claim 9.

One example of an embodiment of the invention defined in amended independent Claim 9 is shown in Applicant’s Figure 7, which includes input signal wire 10 and test pads 16-2 and 16-5. As can be seen in Figure 7, test pads 16-2 and 16-5 are both located between input terminal 10a and output terminal 10b. It should be noted that although Figure 7 includes multiple test pads, Claim 9 is satisfied by a device that includes even a single test pad.

As correctly acknowledged by the Examiner, the Kim et al. reference does not include the claimed test pad. Accordingly, the Examiner relied on the Ukita reference for this feature. Figure 2 of the Ukita reference shows test pads 14. However, each test pad 14

is located at one end of extension 12A of conductor 12, and therefore the test pads are not located “between the input and output terminals,” as defined in amended Claim 9.

Further, Applicant respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to have placed test pads 14 of Ukita “between the input and output terminals” because Ukita teaches away from such placement. In column 1, lines 49-55, the Ukita reference teaches that the probe used for testing may damage the test pad through abrasion or through the addition of impurities to the test pad. The Ukita reference solves this problem by moving the test pad from a position on the wire to a position on an extension of the wire (such as extension 12A of Figure 2), which prevents malfunction of the wire, even if the test pad is damaged by the probe. *See e.g.*, Ukita, col. 2, line 64 through col. 3, line 2. Accordingly, since the Ukita reference teaches away from placing the test pad on the wire (in favor of placing it on an extension of the wire), Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to move the test pad of Ukita to a position on the wire (“between the input and output terminals”) where, if it were damaged by the probe, malfunction of the wire could result. Thus, since all of the features of amended independent Claim 9 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 9 and associated dependent Claims 10-14.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kim et al. in view of Ukita and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,952,250 to Ueda. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 15 depends from independent Claim 9, and therefore includes all of the features of Claim 9, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of dependent Claim 15 under the combination of Kim et al., Ukita and Ueda be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 9, and also because the Ueda reference does not remedy the deficiencies noted above, nor was it relied upon as such.

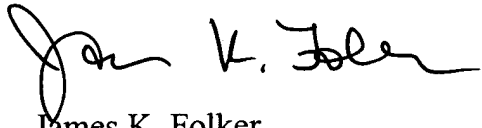
Finally, Applicant has also added new dependent Claims 16 and 17. Applicant respectfully submits that new dependent Claims 16 and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons that render associated independent Claim 9 allowable.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference

would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 6, 2006

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